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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Apr. 21



Garaywa damaged by April 15 tornado

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton on April 15 became the second Mississippi Baptist campground in less than four months to be damaged by a strong tornado spun off by a powerful and wide-ranging storm system.

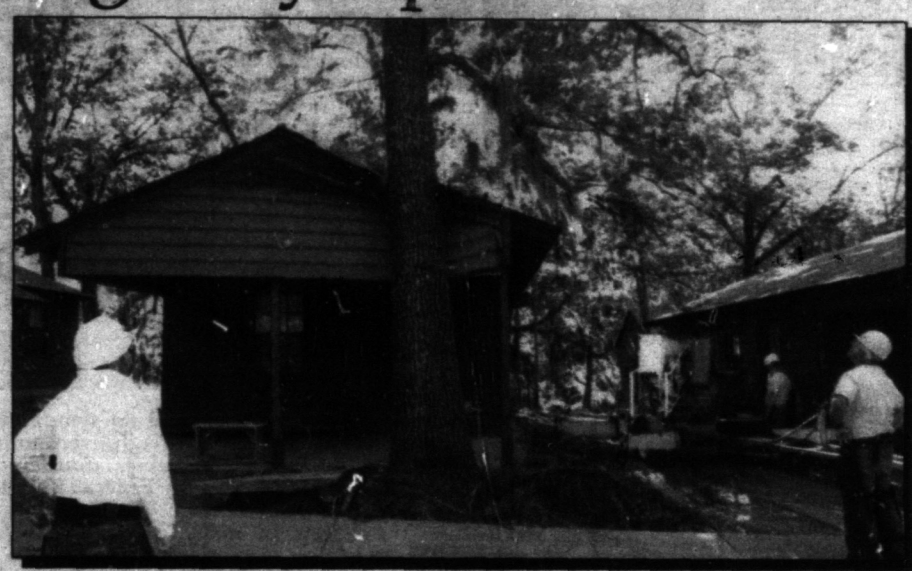
The damage at Garaywa, however, was considerably lighter than at Central Hills Retreat near West, which took a direct hit from a tornado just a few minutes after midnight on New Year's Day. Garaywa camp manager Roddy Reed said a 110-foot-high Red Oak tree was pushed into the front porch roof of Cabin 18, and a smaller limb caused slight damage to the Trading Post.

There was also some timber down around the ropes course near Patterson Place Lodge, he added, with minor repairs to the ropes course already underway.

Garaywa is Mississippi Baptists' Girls in Action (GA) camp and is managed by the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Several major expansion and renovation projects in recent years have made the facility a year-round campground open to a variety of groups and organizations.

"The most important message we can send out today is that the camp is fully operational and all previously-scheduled events will be conducted as planned. This will not affect our schedule in the least," Reed said.

The Mississippi Baptist Missionary Parents Fellowship was to meet at the facility over the weekend, Reed said, and some members of the group had already arrived at Patterson Place Lodge when the storm hit. "The Garaywa staff moved all the folks down to the first floor interior hallway and made sure everyone was safe. The camp staff per-



SURVEYING DAMAGE — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force assess the position of a 110-foot-high Red Oak tree that fell on the front porch roof of Cabin 18 at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton during an April 15 tornado. The crew was able to successfully pull the tree off the roof in one piece after several hours of calculations and planning. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

formed well during the emergency. I'm very pleased with the reaction of the staff, and that all the planning and training we've been through resulted in no one being injured."

"We were blessed that there were no injuries and that the damage was minor. We are grateful for that," said Kay Cassibry, Mississippi WMU executive director.

Within hours of the storm's passing, volunteer members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force were at Garaywa to assist with recovery operations. Trained chain saw crews could be heard working their way through the downed timber, while another crew prepared to remove the fallen tree from the roof of Cabin 18.

After a long morning of calculations and preparation, the big tree was pulled off the cabin by ropes attached to three tractors pulling slowly and evenly in a triangular pattern. As planned, the tree fell harmlessly to the ground in the open activities area in the middle of the complex of cabins, where Mississippi Baptist volunteers were waiting to cut it into sections and haul it away.

Meanwhile, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force activated a mass feeding unit from Briar Hill Church in Florence to assist storm victims around Clinton, which was hit hard in several areas by the storm. The mass feeding unit is a fully self-contained kitchen capable of preparing thousands of hot meals per day for disaster victims and responding personnel. It is

staffed by trained Mississippi Baptist volunteers on call for disaster duty year-round.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force also has feeding operations, chainsaw teams, and "blue tarp" teams in the Leakesville area of Greene County and the DeKalb area in Kemper County, both of which also sustained damage when the April 15 storms moved through those areas.

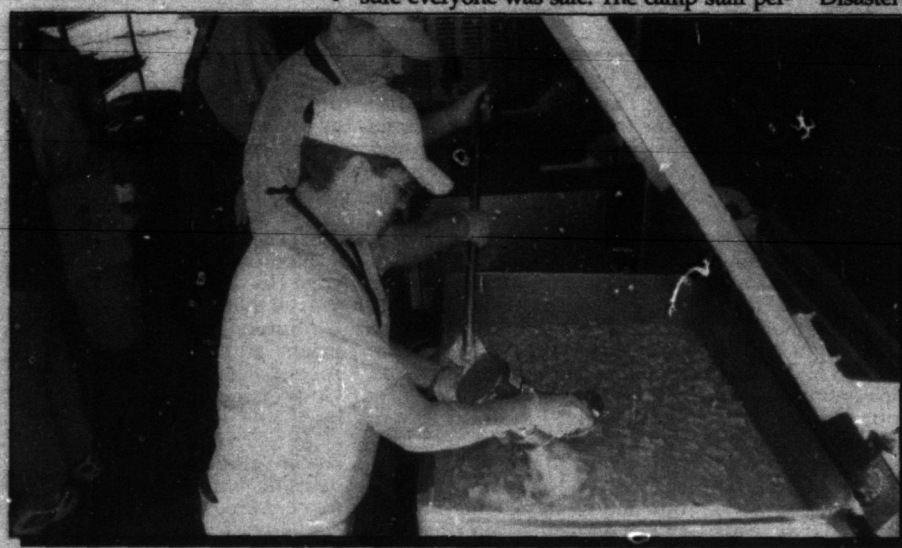
"It's heartbreaking," said Cassibry of the Leakesville damage, which she saw firsthand while helping organize the Baptist relief effort there. "The churches have pulled together to help this community, and it's been a blessing to be a part of that."

No damage assessments were available at press time. News media reported at least one fatality in Greene County as a result of the storm.

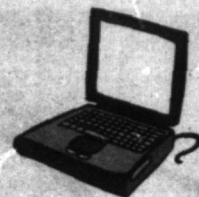
Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) where the Disaster Relief Task Force is headquartered, said three feeding units in Clinton, DeKalb, and Leakesville have provided approximately 5,000 meals so far. "The coordination and cooperation among the Baptist entities has been extraordinary," Gann said.

Jim Didlake, MBCB Men's Ministry Director, agreed. "The story of this disaster response has been how Baptists have come together from our churches, associational missions offices, and the state convention to respond to people's needs in the name of Jesus Christ," he said.

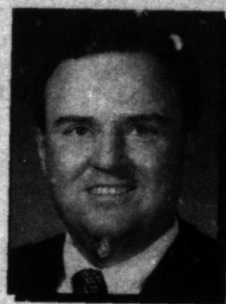
The Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering support the ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, and Central Hills Retreat.



FEEDING STORM VICTIMS — Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers prepare the evening meal on April 16 for victims of the storm front and tornado that struck the Clinton area the day before. Garaywa Camp and Conference Center escaped major damage, but several Clinton neighborhoods and businesses suffered heavy damage and were cordoned off by law enforcement officers. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Hail, Prince of Peace!

Every generation likely believes that they lived or are living at the pinnacle of man's inhumanity to his fellow man. The Civil War, where advanced weaponry met outdated tactics, would be one extreme example. There was World War I and the widespread use of devastating chemical warfare. For sheer volume of brutality on a global scale, World War II would be difficult to match.

Today's world situation most probably ranks somewhere close to the top, however, because of the global targeting of innocent non-combatants. We live in a time that allows stateless terrorist groups to move about in the shadows, picking off children.

Nary a day goes by without another report of a homicide bomber somewhere destroying not only himself but everyone around him. Humanitarian workers are slaughtered in cowardly drive-by ambushes. Radical fundamentalists applaud the murders of more than 3,000 people killed on 9/11, and declare that God is glorified by such acts.

Our own home-grown terrorists feel no sympathy for the innocent, in the case of Timothy McVeigh even going to his execution cynically declaring the babies murdered in his bombing of Oklahoma City's Murrah Federal Building were nothing more than "collateral damage."

Meanwhile, the streets of many of our great American metropolises are ruled by ruthless gangs willing to do anything to anybody who stands between them and their wildly lucrative drug business. Police are often outmanned and outgunned, and considered by these people as just another obstacle to be eliminated by whatever means necessary.

Has human life ever been worth less? Has human depravity ever gone lower? Have we ever been farther away from our Creator



Happy Easter 2011

and Father? Perhaps, but there's no doubt the world is in bad shape at the moment.

If we ever needed a Prince of Peace, we need Him this Easter.

We need a Prince of Peace to still the violence that destroys so many people — many of whom go into eternity without salvation. We need a Prince of Peace to compel combatants to lay down their weapons so food and medicine and the Gospel can get to the people who need it most, because that's inarguably more important than political grievances.

We need a Prince of Peace to teach us that the differences setting us against one another are only skin deep, and that our loving Heavenly Father loves us all. We need a Prince of Peace to show us how to turn the other cheek, and how two wrongs don't make a right.

We need a Prince of Peace to demonstrate for us how we should raise our children and treat our elders, because we no longer seem to have that knowledge. We need a Prince of Peace to intercede for the very young and the very old, who we despise so much for the inconvenience they create.

We need a Prince of Peace to help us overcome the pettiness in our small lives, and invite us to become a part of something much bigger and infinitely more important than ourselves. We need a Prince of Peace to keep us focused on the

main thing and deliver us from the snares and distractions of the Evil One: money, power, sex, ego, and self-centeredness, to name only a few.

Thank God we have been given just such a Prince of Peace in Jesus Christ — a Prince of Peace who, because he walked among us as one of us, understands us better than we understand ourselves. Thank God we have a Prince of Peace who serves even today as the perfect example of what our Heavenly Father expects of us. Thank God that our Prince of Peace is sufficient to defeat the Evil One and save us from an eternity of damnation.

On this Easter, let us lift our voices in praise to God and Son, and pray that all the people of the world will one day soon know the peace we know that has been so freely given to us by the Savior.

Hail, Prince of Peace!

GUEST OPINION:

What if?

By Joe McKeever
New Orleans



sure: If no crucifixion, then no resurrection. Without either a cross or an empty tomb, we have nothing but an inspiring story of a wonderful man who lived an exemplary life. In other words, we're in big trouble.

The crucifixion is the first half of that story. Separating the death of Jesus from His resurrection and trying to make one more important than the other is like running a rip saw through your torso and trying to decide which half was more essential to your existence.

I find myself wondering why Robert Cowley didn't assign someone to write a far more intriguing chapter on a different topic: What if Jesus had not risen from the grave?

I think we know why no such chapter can be found. It

would be tantamount to admitting that Jesus really did rise from the dead and if one admits that, he has to deal with a world of implications and consequences. It becomes easier for these (ahem) objective historians, which many of them have ruled out as an impossibility for the simple reason that "people don't come back from the dead," and to deal only with the crucifixion which poses no problem for historians.

Historian Eire thinks there would have been a religious movement to develop around the teachings and life of Jesus, but more along the line of those honoring Buddha and Confucius. However, he says the members of this religion would still be looking for a

Messiah to come. I think he's right about that.

Without the cross, Jesus is not the Messiah. After all, Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 point to the death of the Messiah for the sins of the people and without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22) However, Jesus did go to the cross, and the news is all good.

God knew what He was doing. Pilate caved in to the crowd and sent Jesus to His death. Jesus died on the cross as He expected. He bore our sins. They buried Him in a borrowed grave and on the next Lord's Day morning, disciples found the tomb empty and the Savior alive and active.

Not only do we acknowledge His death, we celebrate it. We call that day "Good" Friday. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." (Isaiah 53:4) Thank God for the cross of Jesus.

McKeever, a former Mississippi Baptist pastor and church staffer, is the retired director of missions for the New Orleans Association. The previous 14 years, he was pastor of the First Church in Kenner, La. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

So. Baptist EQ relief effort picking up pace

ISHINOMAKI, Japan (BP) — Japan's Baptist leader has expressed heartfelt gratitude for the assistance Baptists worldwide have provided in the aftermath of his country's March 11 earthquake and tsunami, and has made specific requests for continued prayer.

"Please accept my deepest gratitude for your kind expressions of comfort, encouragement, prayer support, and love offerings, following the earthquake that has wrought devastation to Japan," wrote Makoto Kato, executive secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention, in an April 1 letter. "The warm response from Christian brothers and sisters around the world has sustained our broken hearts. Japan Baptist churches appreciate the marvelous support system of Baptists around the world united in prayer for Japan."

The increased availability of gasoline has made it possible for the most critical necessities for human existence, such as water, food, clothing, gasoline, and kerosene, to be delivered into the disaster zone, Kato said. The Japan Baptist Convention has placed temporary crisis management staff in the area to support the work of local churches in helping ease the emotional trauma disaster survivors are experiencing.

Southern Baptists working in the disaster response say they are pleased that weekly caravans can now make their way into the disaster zone and that training efforts are helping Japanese Baptists mount effective relief initiatives.

Baptist Global Response (BGR), an international relief and development organization, and its partners are moving to establish bases of operation in the primary impact areas of Sendai and Ishinomaki, said Jeff Palmer, BGR's executive director.

"We have partners committed to establishing and staffing bases of operations in Ishinomaki and Sendai, and plan to build housing in Sendai for Japanese Baptist volunteers coming out from Tokyo," Palmer said. "The operation now has the capacity of feeding hot meals to up to 3,000 people at a time, and our state disaster relief specialists have trained Japanese Baptists in areas of disaster response administration, grief counseling and logistics."

Palmer said he has been deeply moved by the generosity of Southern Baptists in responding to the Japan crisis. "We are now somewhere over \$500,000 in donations through IMB (International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist



RELIEF DELIVERIES — Southern Baptist aid and manpower are being seen in the northern Japan area devastated by last month's historic earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster. The increased availability of gasoline has made it possible for "the most critical necessities for human existence, such as water, food, clothing, gasoline, and kerosene," to be delivered into the disaster zone, said Makoto Kato, executive secretary of the Japan Baptist Convention. (BP photo)

Convention) and BGR, and have appropriated almost \$200,000," Palmer said.

"Funds are still coming in at a fairly steady pace, thanks to churches that have not forgotten Japan's suffering people, and to partners like LifeWay Christian Resources, which has designated the 'change buckets' in their stores nationwide for Japan relief. Southern Baptists continue to demonstrate they are people who care about people in need."

The disaster response in Japan is about connecting with people in need and caring about them as individuals, said Pam Wolf, who with her husband Ben helps lead BGR work in the Asia Rim.

Wolf joined a team headed into Ishinomaki on April 5 that helped a woman named Sato who wanted to return to the city in search of family members. Sato wound up helping with a distribution of relief supplies on the parking lot of a convenience store. While they were handing out supplies, Sato recognized one woman as an old friend, who also was searching for her family. The two women were deeply moved to find each other.

Sometimes just listening to someone's story is even more

important than what you give them, Wolf reflected. She told about a boy they met in Ishinomaki who had been swept away with his dog by the tsunami. The boy struggled to cling to his dog in the raging water and finally was able to catch hold of a ladder, but found himself forced to let go of the dog so he could climb out.

"He told us his story with tears in his eyes," Wolf said. "You might think there are far worse tragedies than losing a dog that happened during the disaster, but for this boy, his loss is as traumatic as anyone else's. Because Southern Baptists cared enough to send us in to do disaster response, we were able to be the love of God for this boy."

Kato asked believers around the world to pray for the thousands of disaster survivors who need to experience the love of God for themselves. "Pray for the people struggling to survive under difficult conditions. Pray for the refugees living in relief centers, the sick, the grieving. Pray for the people who have been evacuated from the radioactive danger, and the many more that live in fear of contamination."

"Pray for the Lord Jesus to fill them with His comfort and strength."

Looking back

10 years ago

Ferrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for 17 years, retires at the end of February.

20 years ago

Member churches of Itawamba Association, Fulton, make history by becoming the only association in the Southern Baptist Convention to achieve 100% support for its local Baptist Student Union. All 16 association churches budget for the BSU at Itawamba Community College.

50 years ago

E. T. Jenkins has been elected as Assistant Superintendent of the Baptist Children's Village, effective June 1.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 21, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 16



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my relationship
with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a loving
relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritual
guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004
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MQBUU OHIK VG HBVF;
NQFLFWILF NQFG
MQBUU OHIK RH NQBN
EBG NQBN EINQ MTFBO;
CFQIUE, RN RM R.
RMBRBQ WRWNG-NKI:
MRJ

Clue: H=N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Twenty-Two:Eight

Barbara H. Landrum, 91, widow of Dr. John W. Landrum, former pastor of First Baptist Churches in Canton (1946-1952) and Grenada (1952-1962), and churches in Missouri and Kentucky, went home to be with her Lord on Sunday April 10, 2011.

She is survived by her sons Rev. John W. Landrum Jr. of Gulfport and Rev. Jim Landrum of Chickamauga, GA. Interment was at Clinton Cemetery on April 16th.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOGUE CHITTO BAPTIST CHURCH AT CARTER'S CREEK WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY OCT. 26 - 28, 2012. We need addresses of former Pastors to send out invitations. Please send addresses to: Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, 248 Boyd Reeves Road, Tylertown, Ms. 39667, or call 601-684-7606.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH HOME-COMING AND DINNER ON GROUND IS TO BE HELD ON APRIL 24, 2011. THE REVEREND LARRY EDWARDS WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER. SERVICE STARTS AT 11 AM AND DINNER FOLLOWING. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE HOME-COMING THIS YEAR. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH SECRETARY AT 662-834-1455.

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THE OVERCOMING JESUS

Easter is here again. Thanks be unto God! Time and again, the people of God arrive at a celebration time each year that we call Easter. I am fully aware that commercialism has tried to take Easter over and Spring Festivals have tried to replace its significance. All kinds of creatures — rabbits, butterflies, chickens, ducks, and hummingbirds — have tried to be more significant than what Easter actually celebrates, but we who know the living Lord Jesus move toward this grand day of worship and celebration with overflowing joy.

Toward the end of the book of Revelation in 17:14, the Scripture clearly focuses on our Lord, the Lamb of God that has taken away the sin of the world. It says, "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords and King of kings." Jesus was, is, and always will be the overcoming Jesus.

We celebrate because Jesus overcame the grave and all of the forces of hell. He overcame everything that would come against Him. Many of the things that come against you and me on a day-to-day and maybe on an hourly basis are the kinds of things that the great Christ, the mighty Lamb of God overcame. He came to make us overcomers and that in its totality is what Easter is. Just think about it for a few minutes as you contemplate Easter in your life and in your church.

He overcame disappointment. So many of us stumble and experience setbacks in our spiritual life because we have disappointments. As with Jesus, many of our disappointments come because of people around us. Now to be honest sometimes it is us,



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

but at times there are others who we have loved, cared about, and invested our lives with them and they disappoint us. In the case of Jesus, He was disappointed by betrayal. Judas, the name of the betrayer, has become known to the entire world. I have never heard of anyone who named a child Judas. I cannot recall anyone who named a bad dog Judas. It is a name of disdain. Just the mention of the name sounds despicable. Yet, at some point or other in the journey of life, you and I may feel and experience the pain of betrayal.

What do you do? How do you go on? How do you respond? How do you muster enough faith and commitment to march forward when you have been betrayed? No one who has ever been there would say that it is easy. Probably, if a survey were taken most of us would say it is virtually impossible. Yet Jesus overcame and offers to us the strength to overcome even the disappointment of betrayal. While He stayed focused on the call of God in His life and the commitment to the Father in His heart, He also received the strength without which no one can overcome that moment of disappointment.

He also overcame the disappointment of silence. On the night that He was betrayed, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane. There He asked His disciples to watch and pray, and they went to sleep. It is interesting that sometimes people think that they are helping because they are doing nothing. Have you ever been in a position where you thought that there were people who were involved and would be there with you through thick and thin and if push came to

shove, you could always depend on them to stand by you? However, at some crucial moment, they pulled back, disappeared into the woodwork just like the disciples who went to sleep, and in a sense were non-existent.

It is hard to express the disappointment that is felt at that point and while they had done nothing that seemed to be obviously hurtful or distressing, it was. Yet when that disappointment of silence came, again, Jesus overcame and so can we and so must we.

A third disappointment that came to Jesus was the denial of possibly His most vocal disciple. Simon Peter had gone on record with a totally unreserved, you-can-depend-on-me commitment. However, on that night amid all of the clamor that was taking place following Jesus' arrest, Simon Peter would be asked, "Aren't you one of His disciples?" He would totally deny that he was or that he even knew Jesus.

Jesus was close by and heard the denials, which He knew were coming. His heart must have broken as He looked across at Simon Peter as he declared his ignorance of who He was. I have often thought that while we think of Jesus on the cross and the Scripture's declaration that He could have called 10,000 angels to deliver Him, that maybe at these disappointing moments there was a greater temptation to say, "Forget it all!" On the cross, the hardened Roman soldiers were inflicting punishment and the meandering crowd was jeering at Him. Here His most trusted disciples, the people in whom He had invested the most and on whom he was depending the most, disappointed Him. Yet, He overcame.

He not only overcame disappointment, He overcame doubt. While there are many things that I might point out, let me just ask you to think of the totality of the events of

Easter where it appears as though everything that Jesus declared He was, everything that He could do, all of the things that He said, and the miracles that He worked were to no avail. It looked as though this world with its evil political maneuvering and religious hypocrisy were winning. Just look at the things that were taking place and you will see hatred and bitterness seem to be the victor whether it was from Pilate, Caiaphas, Herod, or the mob that was crying, "Crucify Him!"

Maybe this is the kind of feeling that you get when you hear breaking news in our world about one thing and then another crisis comes immediately behind it. Almost every day you experience a social earthquake followed by a spiritual and moral tsunami. I can drain your heart of faith and hope. It seems as though doubt rules. Jesus stood in the midst of all of that and remains the overcoming Jesus.

Another triumphant note of the overcoming Jesus is that He conquered death not just disappointments and doubt but death itself. He was victorious over death, the final closure of life. He overcame. Every day so many things swirl around us and work against us and we need the strength of God to overcome. Ultimately, death seems to finally come and say, "I win!" For centuries, it had been that way. For millennia, mankind has struggled with it and in the words of the Apostle Paul, we can come to Easter and say, "Thanks be unto God that giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

That is why we are celebrating. He is the overcoming King of kings and Lord of lords. You and I can join together with saints circling the globe and celebrate Him. We not only celebrate Him, we celebrate Him in us and the power of God that enables us to overcome whatever may come against us. It was Jesus — the powerful, victorious Jesus — who said to the folks in His day and to everyone of us, "Because I live you shall live also." Thank God for Easter! May this be a glorious, happy, and overcoming Easter for each of you!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 21, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY

MISSISSIPPI BSU

Pastors

- 2011 is the 64th year of Mississippi Baptists sending summer missionaries.
- This year, more than 220 students will serve. **This is the largest group of summer missionaries ever sent out by Mississippi Baptists.**
- Students will raise more than \$250,000 to be able to serve this summer.

WMU Leaders



YOUR CHURCH CAN BE A PART OF SUPPORTING OUR MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SUMMER MISSIONARIES!

You can support these students in several ways:

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Physical - Helping students with small things they may need such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Once you have adopted a student, you can contact them and find out their specific needs.

DEADLINE: MAY 15!

To adopt a summer missionary go to our Web site, www.missionsnow.net, choose "Churches" then "Adopt a Missionary" to complete the on-line form. Please contact Peggy Powell in the Collegiate Ministry Department with questions, ppowell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3299.

2011 Senior Adult Day Retreats

Fairview BC, Columbus May 19	FBC, Yazoo City May 24	Temple BC, Hattiesburg May 26
Jerry Rankin Reflections Choir, FBC, Jackson	Bill Baker Joy Singer, Alta Woods	Jerry Rankin Voices of Pearl, FBC, Columbia
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Laughter: Medicine for the Heart Clayton Jordan, Ala.	Laughter: Medicine for the Heart Daryl Logan, Bruce	Laughter: Medicine for the Heart Jerry Mixon, MBCB
Finding Fullness - Again Clarence Cooper, Brandon BC	Finding Fullness - Again Scotty Shows, Tenn.	Finding Fullness - Again Doyle Cooper, La.
Unlearning the Fears of Life Ron Mumbower, FBC, Jackson	Unlearning the Fears of Life Gary Mayfield, MC, Clinton	Unlearning the Fears of Life Ron Mumbower, FBC, Jackson
Faithful Praying Daniel Hall, MBCB	Faithful Praying Becky Brown, Ridgeland	Faithful Praying Daniel Hall, MBCB
Saturday Afternoon Movies Farrell Blankenship, Clinton	Saturday Afternoon Movies Farrell Blankenship, Clinton	Saturday Afternoon Movies Farrell Blankenship, Clinton
Gatherings: Eva Hart/Sonrise FBC, Jackson	Gatherings: Bill Baker Clinton	Gatherings: Red Roots Hurley, Miss.

For more information contact the MBCB Conference Office, PO Box 530, Jackson 39205 or call 800-748-1651, ext. 216

GROWING CHURCHES

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Association
Growing Churches Conference
 Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30, 2011

Harrisburg Baptist Church
 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
 Tupelo, MS 38801

Lad/Crusader Day

STATEWIDE RACER COMPETITION
 MAY 7, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NURSES & MISSIONARIES NEEDED AT GARAYWA:



Camp Garaywa is still in need of nurses to serve the weeks of June 6-10, June 27-July 1, and July 18-22 and missionaries the weeks of June 20-24 and July 11-15.

If interested in volunteering for either position, please contact Erica at ehagar@garaywa.org or 601-924-7034.

PROCLAIM!

WMU MISSIONS CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEETING

June 12-13, 2011



Proclaim! is the theme for this year's celebration, based on Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (NIV)

Where:

Wyndham Phoenix Hotel
 50 East Adams Street
 Grand Ballroom
 Phoenix, Arizona

What's in store:

- Learn practical ways to strengthen and energize your missional journey
- Discover how God is working around the world and how you can be part of it
- Participate in relevant and inspiring breakout sessions (including sessions on how to lead WMU age-level organizations)
- Dialogue with international and North American field personnel
- Connect and network with missional leaders from around the country
- Experience dynamic music for worship
- And much, much more!



For more information about this event, contact Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651, or go online to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Web site (www.mbc.org) for a schedule and conference list. Search under the event title or calendar date.



Associational & Church Missions Leadership Training

Crossgates BC, Brandon
 Friday and Saturday
 August 12-13

Conferences for associational WMU leaders, church missions leaders and women's ministry leaders will be offered on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. General missions/ministry conferences will be offered for all participants.

Mid-Delta FamilyFEST

July 20-24, 2011

(Cleveland, Greenwood, Indianola area)

FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Any missions volunteers-six years and older- are encouraged to participate.

The cost is \$25 per individual or a maximum of \$50 per family (immediate family - parents and their children). The cost includes: registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals. Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing. We are working on affordable housing options.

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323 or tanderson@mbcb.org).

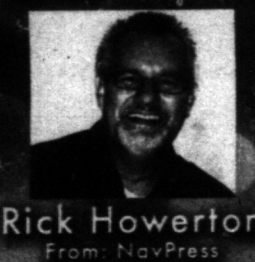
FamilyFEST is co-sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist Association, Men's Ministry (MBCB) and Mississippi WMU (MBCB).



SMALL GROUP/CELL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

May 23, 2011
GCBA Training Center
 9 a.m. - noon
 or
 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Register by calling GCBA at 228-832-4311. Please Register before May 6, 2011.



Rick Howerton
 From: NavPress

Contact Discipleship & Family Ministry for more information
 601-292-3284

Legacy Renewal Revival



David F. Uth
 Senior Pastor
 First Baptist Church
 Orlando, Florida

Jim Whitmire
 Executive Pastor of Worship
 First Baptist Church
 Jacksonville, Florida

**First Baptist Church
 Jackson, Miss.**

Service times:
 Thursday, May 12, 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 13, 10 a.m.

May 12-13, 2011

For more information contact: Tom Washburn - 601-949-1980
twashburn@fbcj.org

He has Risen ...

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

³But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

⁴As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁵"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Mark 16:1-7

HOUSE TOPS

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COMMISSION

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES
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The Wrap

by Jimmy Porter
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.



Porter

The baseball game is over. The teams are leaving the field and then the radio announcer says, "In just a moment we will be right back for the wrap up." Shortly the broadcaster comes back and gives to the listeners a synopsis of the game. Of course, the comments made are his/her opinions based on the data that is made available to them. The commentator's opinions and comments never reveal the whole story because they sit in the broadcasting booth and not down on the field where the action is. It is the same for the Christian Action Commission (CAC) as I offer a wrap of this year's legislative session.

The CAC monitors several bills in the Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate each year. Recently, after miraculously passing a budget, they pounded the gavel and went home. It is now time for the "wrap up." Following is a synopsis of a few of the bills that reflect our interests and our opinions.

Pro-life bills did not fare well this year. SB 656, proposed to make it a felony to transport a minor to another state to have an abortion without parental consent, died in committee. SB 3036 would have

required physicians performing abortions in clinics to be board certified in OB/GYN, but it too died in committee.

SB 2498, known as the Child Protection Act, would have required mandatory reporting of sexual crimes against minors, retaining the DNA of a fetus for the purpose of

documenting the perpetrator of a sex crime against the minor, thus making it easier for prosecution. This is the third year this bill has failed. Usually it comes out of the Senate and goes to the House where it is always placed in Judiciary A, chaired by Ed Blackmon of Canton, and there it dies in committee. This year it died in committee in the Senate.

SB 3032 provided appropriations for Mississippi's institutes of higher learning. Representative Andy Gipson and Senator Perry Lee were instrumental in getting an amendment to the bill that stated, "None of the funds appropriated and/or authorized for expenditure

under this act shall be used for research in which a human embryo is killed or destroyed." There was a situation that necessitated this amendment, and the CAC is very appreciative of Rep. Andy Gipson for his diligent work and for Sen. Perry Lee for his efforts in the Senate.

Due to an election year, alcohol bills did not fare very well as most politicians prefer not to go on record voting for such bills and then running for office in the same year. HB 744 and SB 2064 would have raised the level of alcohol content in beers, but fortunately they died in committee. This is one dangerous bill and it will be back next year. Your help will be needed to keep this from happening.

Also dying in committee was SB 2627 that would have allowed advertising of alcohol in areas of our state that have voted to prohibit alcohol sales. One positive bill passed, HB 504. This bill makes it unlawful for adults to allow parties at private premises where minors obtain alcohol with the consenting knowledge of adults.

The Immigration Bill, similar to Arizona's, died in committee. Bills SB 2105, 2109, and 2151 were presented to enhance religious liberty in the public arena, especially our public schools. These were good bills and their authors

are to be commended for their efforts. Hopefully, they will continue to pursue these freedoms.

The one bill that I felt needed a major overhaul was HB 455, commonly known as Pay Day Lending Reform. It is laughable that some feel this industry was made better for the consumer. The interest rates were altered only slightly. Rep. George Flagg and Sen. Gary Jackson chaired the committees in their respective chambers which did very little to protect the citizens of our state. Hopefully, next year we can all work together to improve this atrocity. The CAC thanks those of you who voted against giving this industry another four years to continue its, in my opinion, unethical and immoral practices.

Now we will all wait to see how the Courts draw the redistricting maps and how they will impact the upcoming elections. It is going to be an exciting seven months. The CAC will be developing a nonpartisan voter guide to help you in determining the best candidate in our statewide elections. Stay tuned — there will need to be several more "Wraps" in the coming months.

Porter can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or at jporter@christianaction.com.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Goodwater Church, Enterprise:** Memorial Day/homecoming service, May 1; Sunday School, 9:45 AM; worship, 11 AM; potluck fellowship meal following worship; Kenneth Overby, speaker; James K. Smith, pastor.

2. **First Church, Blackhawk:** Homecoming, May 1; A Joyful Noise in concert, 10:30 AM, followed by homecoming message;

covered dish lunch. Revival, May 2-4; 7 PM nightly; Gary Tanner, speaker; Benny Rigsby, music; Delores Tackett, pianist; Bryan Burson, pastor.

3. **New Salem Church, McCall Creek:** Homecoming, May 1, 10:30 AM. Howard Smith, speaker; Charles Case, music; followed by lunch.

4. **Highland Church, Senatobia:** Revival, May 1-4; Sunday, 11 AM and 5 PM; Monday through Wednesday, 6:30 PM; Phil Glisson, speaker; Glenn Herring, music; Greg Hurt, pastor.



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STAFF CHANGES



White

First Church, Runnelstown, has called John White as minister of music, effective May 1. White comes from Central Church, Crestview, Fla., and is currently teaching at the University of Southern Mississippi while working on a doctorate in voice.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

New Mexico Hot Air Balloon Fiesta + Arizona

15 Days Join other Baptists September 27, 2011 from \$1448*

Start in Phoenix, AZ and take the scenic drive north to Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon and Flagstaff. Tour the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, and spend two nights in Albuquerque. Witness the famed hot air balloons "Mass Ascension" opening Albuquerque's Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, plus the evening's "After Glow," and spectacular fireworks. Next, tour more of New Mexico including Pueblo archaeological sites; Manhattan Project's Los Alamos; Santa Fe; Roswell; the International UFO Museum & Research Center; Carlsbad Caverns National Park; Ruidoso; Alamogordo; White Sands National Park, Missile Range and Museum; and Las Cruces, NM. Travel east, back into Arizona, and visit Wyatt Earp's Tombstone (see the OK Corral), and spend a night in Tucson touring the Mission as part of your city tour. Travel back to Phoenix for your final two nights, and city tour, and optional Hot Air Balloon Ride or visit to the famed Desert Botanical Garden.

Autumn Leaves Tour Visits Historical East

15 Days Join other Baptists September 17, 2011 from \$1348*

Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motor coach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included fully escorted sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); and New York City where you'll see all the highlights! You will next visit New Haven and Mystic Seaport, CT; view the gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; and spend two nights in Cape Cod, MA exploring Chatham and Provincetown with coastal scenery, village shops and art galleries. Spend a day and night in Boston to tour the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal (two nights each, both with city tours) then travel along the St. Lawrence River in "upper NY" to Niagara Falls for a half a day. YMT will also take you to tour Coming Glassworks, Hershey World, Gettysburg, Amish Country, and other attractions before flying home.

*Price per person, based upon double occupancy, includes taxes. Airfare is extra.



Call for details and itinerary 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

BIBLE DRILLS



1. First Church, Greenwood



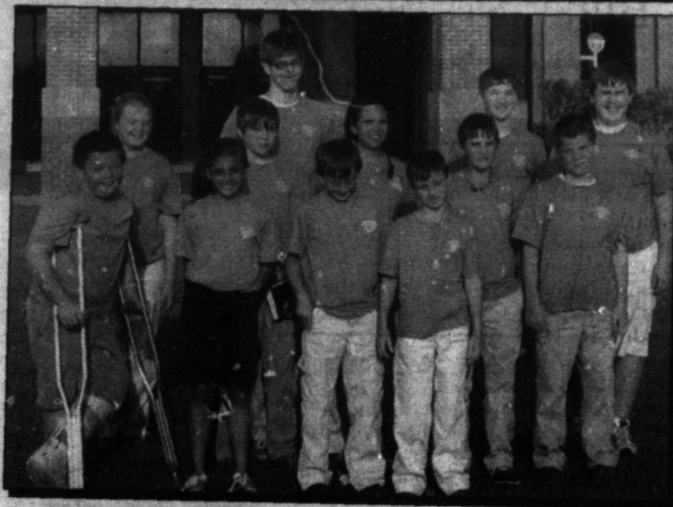
2. Grace Church, Philadelphia

1. First Church, Greenwood recognizes its Bible drillers shown, from left are Katie Joy Wallace, Abigail Lake, Marty Upchurch, leader Debra Miller, Abigail Gillespie, Ryan Wallace, and Jon Floyd Dunn.

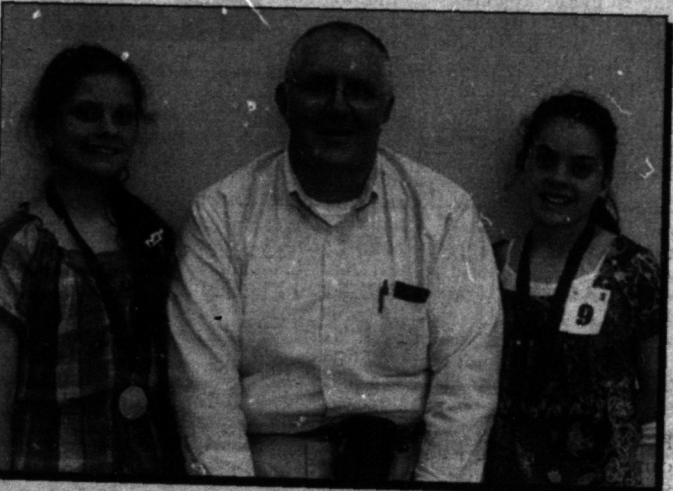
2. Grace Church, Philadelphia, recognizes its Bible Drillers. Shown, center are Talia Webster, (left to right) Mary-Kathryn Asbill, Kooper Battle, Sydney Battle, Brittany Watkins, Chester Carlyle, pastor.

3. Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, recognizes its Bible Drillers. Shown are the participants.

4. Meadowood Church, Amory, recognizes its state Bible Drillers. Shown are Margaret McCain, leader Don Baker, and Mary McCain.



3. Shady Grove Church, Lucedale



4. Meadowood Church, Amory

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Tuesday
May 10, 2011

8:00am Registration Coffee
9:00am Welcome Overview
10:00am Pastoral Care
12:00pm Lunch served
1:00pm Expert Panel Intro
and Discussion
3:00pm Base Tour

Hosted By:
172d Airlift Wing
Thompson Field
141 Military Dr, Jackson

R.S.V.P

Chaplain (Lt Col) Marti Reynolds

marti.reynolds@va.gov 601-362-4471, ext 5353

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Encounter the Risen Lord

John 20:1-18

By Bobby McKay

"Words don't have meanings, they have usages," remarked a seminary professor of mine. Many others in the room that day might have dismissed the previous statement, but I for one chose to ponder it. How we use our words ultimately defines them. Throughout this month's study on grief there have been many words used to describe the hard experiences that each of us face. However, I would like to share with you a word that we all are fond of using. That word is hope. Many in the world strive to define hope in materialistic terms and fleshly devices. We as believers know that when we use the word hope, we are utilizing it in the form of Jesus Christ. Hope for the Christian is not a feeble

word to be used without certainty. Our hope is an ultimate realism found only with new life through Christ. What better way to end our study on grief with the reminder of the risen Savior? While it is inevitable that each of us will face times of sadness and grieving, we must keep our eyes and lives focused on God. The enemy will do whatever he can to keep us discouraged. The reminders shared in this week's lesson are a timeless and powerful reminder of the hope that is in each of us as Christians. As you prepare to teach or learn this week, I pray that the resurrection story will bring hope and comfort to you like never before.

Emptiness

The emphasis of the empty tomb dominates John 20:1-10,



McKay

as well it should. The very essence of our faith and doctrine rests on the tomb being vacant. Our attention also turns to the emptiness the ladies (here specifically Mary Magdalene) were experiencing. Even though we often are unable to comprehend what we are going through, God is still at work on our behalf. In this instance, Jesus has risen from the dead! It is interesting to note that this is the same Mary that Christ had previously delivered from demon possession. It is easy to understand her grief. The One that had rescued her from darkness and given her a new life was missing. May we never forget that those without a relationship with Christ are genuinely empty and only the gospel will satisfy their deepest needs. Don't miss verse eight. It records a powerful display of faith by the disciple John. The verse records that,

"he saw and believed." Even before Jesus had made an appearance, John believed. This should serve as a reminder that our belief should not be based on what we can see, rather the object of our faith: Jesus.

Emotions

By this point, Mary begins to weep. Believing that someone has stolen the body of Jesus, she is overcome with emotion. The word for weeping is the same word that we have for the type of grief expressed at the death of Lazarus. It implies a loud and mournful wailing that was indicative of a deep loss or tragedy. It is at this time, Jesus shows up. He is there for Mary in her deep sadness and despair, just as He is for you and me. Many have speculated why Mary was unable to recognize Christ initially. I believe she was blinded (figuratively speaking) by her grief. She went to the tomb to see a dead man, and had not recalled the promises of

Christ's teachings. How many times are we guilty of the same thing? We focus on our circumstances and all the while Christ is in our midst desiring to affirm our faith.

Enthusiasm

After calling her by name, Mary recognizes the Lord. Filled with enthusiasm, Mary clings to Jesus in rejoicing and praise like we perhaps cannot begin to imagine. Anguish and despair melt away in the presence of Him. Mary is obedient to Christ and hurries to tell the disciples, making her the first person in the history of the world to share the gospel. Only Jesus makes it possible to take our deepest hurts and turn them into enthusiastic joy. Your grief is only temporary, Christ is eternal! Celebrate Easter this Sunday with renewed passion and love for a Jesus that is alive. Praise be to God the tomb is empty!

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Believing the Truth

John 20:1-18 Focus John 20:1-9, 14-18

By Cyndi Grace

When we lived in South Florida, our small community came together each Easter season and performed a musical entitled, "Jesus Is Lord," written and directed by a local church member. Most churches in the area participated either in the play or in the choir. Our first year there, I merely attended not yet knowing what to expect from this group. As the final scene began, Mary Magdalene realized the gardener at the tomb was really Jesus. She heard Him say, "Go and tell the others," she ran through the crowd with the good news—Jesus was alive! At once the choir began singing, "He's Alive! He's Alive! He's Alive and I'm forgiven...He's Alive!" Before I knew it I was on my feet, tears streaming down my face

singing along. Never have more important words ever been spoken in the world than, "He's Alive." They separate Christianity from every other religion and give hope to a lost world but how will they believe unless we do?

Our text is from John's gospel and I would like our emphasis today to be on John, the apostle. John, the youngest, stood alone for he was the one who never left Jesus' side—remaining at Jesus' feet until Christ's earthly life ended. He was entrusted to care for Jesus' mother and was the one who wrote the final words of the Bible. He also called himself "the one Jesus loved." When I was a teenager, I remember reading those words and thinking John had a pride problem...who would do that? The longer I live, however, the



Grace

more I realize that John was not so much talking about who Jesus loved but his own acceptance of that love. He was so certain of it that even an empty tomb did not discourage him from believing Jesus could do anything—even rise from the dead. Perhaps that is the key to a life of faith...truly believing that you are the one that Jesus loves. For many that is harder than believing that Jesus rose from the dead.

The two others, Peter and Mary Magdalene, in this passage did not respond like John. Verses 8-9 tell us that John arrived at the empty tomb first, saw it was empty and believed while the others did not understand...May I suggest that they didn't understand because they were looking through their own pain? Peter saw the emptiness and went home. Mary remained, determined to DO something!!

Peter's story might be more like ours. He doubted that Jesus could ever love him again after his denial just days before. Seeing the empty tomb only mirrored Peter's emptiness and guilt; he couldn't see past it. His belief stopped with his past. While most of us believe Jesus rose from the dead, we find it hard to believe He could actually love and forgive us.

Mary Magdalene experienced loss and wanted to FIX it the only way she knew and that was to serve her Lord one more time. But her focus on the physical and what she could DO blinded her understanding of who Jesus really was. He had delivered her from demons but she forgot that He had the power to conquer death. Grief often blinds us to truth.

There were three who came...only one believed right away. The others ultimately did but to John it was simple from the start; his belief came because he knew Jesus loved him and would never have left him alone.

Not all of us find it that easy. What would change if we saw life through Jesus' love the way John did? What if we believed we are the ones Jesus loves? I am not talking about salvation...I am talking about a daily understanding of that love. Accepting that love could change the direction of life. It could change thoughts and cause a desire to spend more time with Jesus. It could increase our belief that during the hard times, it is not the end. Believing in this love would allow us to believe the miraculous—even the dead coming to life.

Tradition tells us after John left Patmos he was carried in a chair throughout the streets of Ephesus yelling, "It's love! It's love!" It is love that compelled Jesus to go to Calvary and it was love that caused Him to rise again and we can believe it! Truth is, He is Alive! I know because I am the one He loves...and so are you!

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org.

Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Lee and Gardner



2. Collier, Eubanks, and Patterson



3. Gaston Church, Booneville



4. Stevenson ordination

1. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, licensed Matthew Lee, the church's minister of music, to the gospel ministry. Shown are Lee and pastor Randy Gardner.

2. The Young Musicians of Freney Church, Carthage, participated in the Young Musicians Festival held at Mississippi College in Clinton, on April 2. Shown are Carley Collier, Hannah Eubanks, and Alana Patterson.

3. Seven volunteers were commissioned and sent out by Gaston Church, Booneville, on a mission trip to Belize on March 19-26. This was the first organized international mission team sent out by the church. They participated in construction, evangelism, Bible study and other ministries to families in Copper Bank Village, Belize.

4. Calvary Church, Waynesboro, ordained Michael Edward Stevenson, Jr. to the Gospel ministry April 10. Shown are pastor Whit Lewis, Michael and Samantha Stevenson, and Keith Ramage.

5. The State Keyboard Festival was held February 26 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. Participants are, back row, Austin Nicholson, Robbie Baine, Kipp Gill, and Erin Wilson. Front row, Morgan Gaughf, Sarah DeLee, Apryl D. Butler, and Maggie Smith. Seven summer scholarships and six college scholarships were awarded.

6. Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, ordained Charlie Estes and Micah Lambert as deacons. Shown are Forrest Sheffield, Estes, Lambert, and Ed Page.

7. First Church, Pearl, sent 937 member team of adults and youth to perform mission ministries in Wheeling, West Virginia. The group distributed Bibles, witnessed, served hot food, provided musical entertainment, a block party, and distributed 100 hams at an assisted living facility. Jeff Buchanan, pastor.

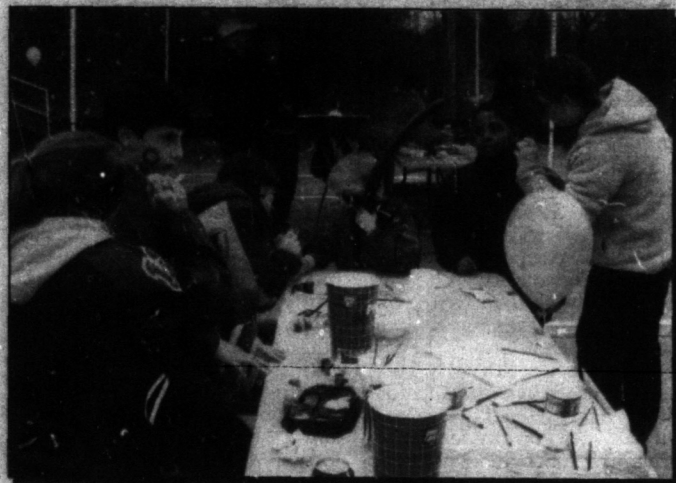
8. Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, youth helped serve at the annual steak dinner. Funds raised from this event finance mission trips.



5. State Keyboard Festival



6. Harrisburg Church, Tupelo



7. First Church, Pearl



8. Escawtapa Church, Escatawpa